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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/761,962	01/21/2004	Hironobu Takizawa	17378	3889
23389 7590 10/20/2008 SCULLY SCOTT MURPHY & PRESSER, PC 400 GARDEN CITY PLAZA SUITE 300 GARDEN CITY, NY 11530				
EXAMINER				
TOWA, RENE T				
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/761,962

Applicant(s)

TAKIZAWA ET AL.

Examiner

RENE TOWA

Art Unit

3736

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 July 2008.
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 2, 3, 10, 11 and 13-43 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) 3, 11, 13-28, 30 and 32-43 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 2, 10, 29 and 31 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 8/20/08
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office action is responsive to an amendment filed July 3, 2008. Claims 2-3, 10-11 and 13-43 are pending. Claims 3, 11, 13-28, 30, 32-43 are withdrawn. Claims 2 & 29 have been amended. Claims 1, 4-9 and 12 have been cancelled.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

3. **Claims 2 & 29** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bucalo (US 4,172,446) in view of Brockman (US 3,540,433), and further in view of Schuchardt et al. (US 4,206,000).

Bucalo discloses a swallowable medical capsule 10 having a magnet 56 therein such that when the capsule 10 is swallowed, it travels through the digestive system of a patient and gets discharged from the patient's body with feces; wherein the capsule 10 is conveniently removed from the feces by situating a permanent magnet adjacent the capsule 10 so that the magnet 56 responds to facilitate separation of the capsule from the feces (see abstract; see figs. 2 & 4; see col. 1, lines 56-68; col. 2, lines 1-17; col. 6, lines 46-62).

Bucalo disclose a system, as described above, that fails to explicitly teach a catch unit comprising a net made of a magnet or magnetic material.

However, **Brockman** discloses a medical strainer device 20 comprising a catch unit 24 for catching a sample that is discharged from a patient's body with feces (see figs. 1-5; col. 3, lines 1-5, 7-13 & 15-22; col. 5, lines 48-67). Brockman further discloses

a medical strainer device 20 wherein the catch unit 24 is a filtering net 36 (see figs. 1-5; col. 3, lines 1-5, 7-13 & 15-22; col. 5, lines 48-67).

Schuchardt et al. teach that it is known to provide filtering means with a magnet or magnetic material 23 for removing magnetic particles from a flow stream (see abstract; see fig. 1; see col. 3, lines 20-33).

Since both Bucalo and Brockman teach systems for the collection of biological samples that are discharged within a patient's feces for later analysis, it would have been obvious to one ordinary skill in the art at the time Applicant's invention was made to provide the system of Bucalo with a retrieval device as taught by Brockman in order to facilitate the stool specimen collection by easily and simply mounting the device on a feces-receiving chamber such as a toilet bowl, bedpan, or the like such that the device may be easily washed and dried after use; moreover, before collecting the sample from the feces, it may be necessary to first collect the feces themselves.

Moreover, Bucalo teaches a medical capsule having a magnet such the capsule can be separated from the feces using a magnetic material; Brockman teaches a feces collection device that includes a screen for collecting the feces; since Schuchardt et al. teach that it is known to provide screens made from magnetic material to remove magnetic particles from a flow stream, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time Applicant's invention was made to provide the system of Bucalo as modified by Brockman above with a screen made of magnetic material as taught by Schuchardt et al. in order to facilitate separation of the capsule from the feces using the magnetic material. Moreover, since

a) one of ordinary skill in the art could have combined the teachings of Bucalo and Brockman with those of Schuchardt et al. as suggested in the rejections supra by known methods,

b) in the combination, each element (i.e. the strainer of Brockman and the magnetic characteristics of the screen of Schuchardt et al. following Bucalo's suggestion) in the combination would have performed the same function as it did separately; and,

c) one of ordinary skill in the art would have recognized that the results of the combination were predictable (i.e. rendering the screen of Brockman magnetic so as to attract the capsule of Bucalo for separation from the feces),

The Examiner submits that combining prior art elements according known methods to yield predictable results has recently been held to be obvious (see KSR International Co. v. Teleflex Inc., 550 U.S.--, 82 USPQ2d 1385 (2007)).

4. **Claim 10** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bucalo ('446) in view of Brockman ('433), Schuchardt et al. ('000), and further in view of Paulin (US 4,309,782).

Brockman as modified by Greutert discloses a system, as described above, that teaches all the limitations of the claim except for a bag to enclose the specimen together with a unit of the specimen retrieval device.

However, **Paulin** discloses a device comprising a bag 12 to enclose a specimen together with a catch unit 46 of the specimen retrieval device 16 for temporary storage

or transport, after the specimen has been collected (see abstract; see figs. 1-3; col. 2, lines 20-32 & 62-67).

Both Bucalo and Brockman teach systems for the collection of biological samples that are discharged within a patient's feces for later analysis at a laboratory or a physician's office; Brockman teaches a sample retrieval device for collecting the fecal specimen; since Paulin teaches a bag for storing a medical retrieval device for temporary storage or transport to a physician's office or a laboratory, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time Applicant's invention was made to provide the system of Bucalo as modified by Brockman and Schuchardt et al. above with a bag as taught by Paulin in order to store and/or transport the collected specimen to a physician's office and/or laboratory.

5. **Claim 10** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bucalo ('446) in view of Brockman ('433), Schuchardt et al. ('000), and further in view of Slover et al. (US 4,445,235).

Bucalo as modified by Brockman and Schuchardt et al. discloses a system, as described above, that teaches all the limitations of the claim except for a bag to enclose the specimen together with a unit of the specimen retrieval device.

However, **Slover et al.** disclose a device comprising a bag to enclose a specimen together with a catch unit of the specimen retrieval device for temporary storage or transport, after the specimen has been collected (see column 4/lines 21-25).

Both Bucalo and Brockman teach systems for the collection of biological samples that are discharged within a patient's feces for later analysis at a laboratory or a

Art Unit: 3736

physician's office; Brockman teaches a sample retrieval device for collecting the fecal specimen; since Slover et al. teach a bag for a storing a medical retrieval device for temporary storage or transport to a physician's office or a laboratory, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time Applicant's invention was made to provide the system of Bucalo as modified by Brockman and Schuchardt et al. above with a bag as taught by Slover et al. in order to store and/or transport the collected specimen to a physician's office and/or laboratory.

6. **Claim 31** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bucalo ('446) in view of Brockman ('433), Schuchardt et al. ('000), and further in view of Marshall (US 6,632,175).

Bucalo as modified by Brockman and Schuchardt et al. discloses a system, as described above, that fails to explicitly teach a system wherein the capsule is washed after capture.

However, **Marshall** teaches a system for retrieving a reusable medical capsule upon exiting the intestine through the rectum (i.e. via excrement) (see fig. 2; column 1/lines 44-46; column 3/lines 58-63).

The Examiner notes that since Marshall teaches a method wherein a reusable medical capsule is retrieved after discharge from a human body, the method inherently includes the step of washing the medical capsule with a washing unit (i.e. with gloves) since the steps of Marshall require, inter alia, swallowing the capsule "through the mouth" and discharging the capsule "through the rectum" (See Marshall, fig. 2; column 1/lines 44-46; column 3/lines 58-63).

Similarly, Brockman discloses a reusable medical retrieval device that is washed before re-use (see abstract; see col. 5, lines 68-75); as such, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time Applicant's invention was made to provide the system of Bucalo as modified by Brockman and Schuchardt et al. above, with a reusable capsule that is washed as suggested by Marshall in order to achieve a capsule that is in sanitary and sterile condition at the time of re-use or swallow. Moreover, since Bucalo teaches a medical capsule that collects sample specimen inside for later analysis, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time Applicant's invention was made to provide the system of Bucalo as modified by Brockman and Schuchardt et al. with a washing step as claimed in order to extract the collected sample within the capsule without contamination; for example, after the capsule is separated from the feces, it would be necessary to clean the capsule before attempt to collect the content thereof without contamination from the feces that otherwise would line the walls of the discharged capsule.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments filed July 3, 2008 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. However, the Examiner observes that the relevance in combining prior art references pertaining to filters with the teachings of Brockman is basically due to the fact that Brockman teaches a filter in the form of screen or mesh 36, which selectively passes fluid and hold solid to semi-solid material (see col. 3, lines 36-69). As such, the Examiner believes that it would have been within the purview of one of ordinary skill in the art at the time Applicant's invention was made

Art Unit: 3736

to look across the filter art to find metallic or magnetic filters as proposed in the rejections supra.

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

US 5,486,287 to Murphy et al. discloses wastewater straining device.

US 4,918,017 to Greenstreet et al. discloses a screen assembly for screening elastomeric material.

US 1,467,772 to Appelhoff discloses an outlet strainer.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to RENE TOWA whose telephone number is (571)272-8758. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8:00-16:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Max Hindenburg can be reached on (571) 272-4726. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3736

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/R. T./
Examiner, Art Unit 3736

/Max Hindenburg/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3736